

# Divorce



## 1) What the Scripture says about divorce, remarriage, and separation

"It has been said, 'Anyone who divorces his wife must give her a certificate of divorce.' But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to become an adulteress, and anyone who marries the divorced woman commits adultery" (Matthew 5:31).

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Some Pharisees came and tested him [Jesus] by asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" "What did Moses command you?" he replied. They said, "Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away."

"It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law," Jesus replied. "But at the beginning of creation God 'made them male and female.' 'For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.' So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, "Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery." (Mark 10:2-12)

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To the married I give this command (not I, but the Lord): A wife must not separate from her husband. But if she does, she must remain unmarried or else be reconciled to her husband. And a husband must not divorce his wife. To the rest I say this (I, not the Lord): If any brother has a wife who is not a believer and she is willing to live with him, he must not divorce her. And if a woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to live with her, she must not divorce him. For the unbelieving husband has been sanctified through his wife, and the unbelieving wife has been sanctified through her believing husband. Otherwise your children would be unclean, but as it is, they are holy.

But if the unbeliever leaves, let him do so. A believing man or woman is not bound in such circumstances; God has called us to live in peace. 16 How do you know, wife, whether you will save your husband? Or, how do you know, husband, whether you will save your wife? (1 Corinthians 7:10-16)

**Source:** <http://house-of-hope.net/bible/divorce.html>

Marriage is nearly as old as the human race. It was ordained by the Creator Himself. It was God's will that a man and a woman become one in marriage. No provision was made for either polygamy or divorce. Marriage was intended by God to be for life (Genesis 1:26-28; 2:18-25; Romans 7:1-3; 1 Corinthians 7:39).

It was not long, however, until men departed from God's original plan. Polygamy began to be practiced (Genesis 4:19). When the Law of Moses was given to Israel, the people had become so hard-hearted that God permitted divorce, but only under certain conditions (Deuteronomy 24:1-4). Even then, God was not pleased with divorce. He said: "I hate putting away" (Malachi 2:14-16).

When Jesus came into the world and gave His law for all mankind, He did not give a new and different law of marriage. Instead He called mankind back to God's original plan (Matthew 19:3-12). His commandment, "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" is still God's will for us today!

The Lord allowed only one cause for divorce. This cause is sexual unfaithfulness on the part of one's marriage partner. Fornication on the part of a marriage partner gives the innocent partner the right to divorce and remarry. But no such privilege is given to the guilty partner. To divorce and remarry for other than the one Scriptural cause is to commit adultery.

To marry one who has been divorced who was not the innocent party is to commit adultery (Matthew 19:9; 5:31,32). Adulterers will not go to Heaven. They will spend eternity in Hell (1 Corinthians 6:9,10; Hebrews 13:4; Revelation 21:8). Those who are living in adultery must repent, stop committing adultery and seek the Lord's forgiveness if they want to be saved.

The home is the basic unit of society. It is the function of the home to provide companionship, the satisfaction of basic human needs and the rearing and training of children. The community, the church, and the nation can only be strong when the home is strong. Many evil forces seek to destroy the home today. Among these evil forces are easy divorce laws, sexual immorality, false views of woman's role in society, but most of all, ignorance of, and a failure to obey God's law of marriage which is given in the Bible.

God's people must never compromise God's will on marriage! We have no right to change God's requirements! In a day when the world increasingly accepts divorce and remarriage for almost any cause, God's people must stand out as lights shining in darkness (Philippians 2:13,14). It is not our duty to be changed by the world's standards, but to seek to bring the world to God's standards (Romans 12:1,2).

It is very important that we teach our children that marriage is for life and divorce is sinful except for the one reason that Jesus gave.

Let us never forget or forsake the divine admonition: "Let marriage be had in honour among all, and let the bed be undefiled; for fornicators and adulterers God will judge"

(Hebrews 13:4, American Standard Version, 1901 edition). God's plan for marriage is still "one man, one wife, for life!"

**Source:** Kevin Walker ([kevinlwalker572@cs.com](mailto:kevinlwalker572@cs.com)), 10/28/03.

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## 2) **MARRIAGE IS HONORABLE IN ALL**

Genesis 2:21-24

"And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man. And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."

Matthew 19:6

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

Marriage is a distinctly Christian institution, based on God's Word, which we trust when it says that God created everything, including man, and established marriage for mankind. The marvel of our present society's wholesale rejection of marriage is no mystery when we consider that our culture has rejected the God who established it.

The fellowship and union of marriage may be the most wonderful relationship God ordained for mankind, short of the indwelling of God's Spirit in the born-again soul.

Hebrews 13:4

"Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge."

Marriage is honorable in all! But, Satan and the carnal world system deny this. Beware the worldly philosophies that tell you marriage is a drag, a prison, or slavery. Beware the bitter spirit of the modern feminist movement wherein women adopt a critical and bitter attitude toward men. Beware the spirit of lust whereby men and women want to live playboy lives instead of marrying and establishing a home. All of those spirits are of the devil!

- 3) Marriage is honorable in all! It exalts the male-female relationship. Marriage frees their relationship from all guilt, shame, and immorality. The marriage makes the relationship between a man and a woman honorable before God!

It brings honor to each spouse. The world's lie is that the single, loose-living, party-lifestyle is freedom. How is it freedom for the woman whose man expects her to share his intimacy and support him in life, yet he might move on if he meets someone prettier, friendlier, or more agreeable? Is it freedom for the man whose woman shares his heart, cheers his days, thrills his soul, and yet might be moving on if some other man is more exciting, more handsome, or wealthier? No! Marriage offers faithfulness and permanence in exchange for companionship, love, intimacy, support, and friendship. Marriage is the honorable way to treat each other.

**Marriage frees from the tyranny of uncertainty.** Is it any wonder so many men and women are anxious or hurting considering that they are trapped in the "freedom" of non-commitment?

It brings honor to the children. It models a trusting, faithful relationship that works through its differences, respects each other, and builds each other up. The children learn from both the male and female influences how to treat their future employers, spouse, and their own children.

It brings honor to God. The unselfish Christian marriage in which both parties give 100% to each other models Christ's love of His saints and their devotion to Him. Since marriage is obedience to God's commands, it honors God by a submission to His will to conduct properly this relationship.

Though we won't take the time to examine it, Ephesians 5:21-33 expresses the aim of all Christian marriages, the unity in love, complete devotion, and tender care of each spouse one for the other. The passage teaches the husband and the wife to submit to each other, ensuring the home does not become a dictatorship run by either party. Husbands are called upon to lead the home with the same love for his wife as he has for himself, modeling Christ's love and intercession for His redeemed ones. Wives are urged to submit themselves devotedly to their husbands, modeling the devoted submission of the believer to His God

**Source:** <http://www.wayoflife.org/fbns/divorce%20&%20remarriage/divorce%201.html>

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#### 4) **An actual post and a Biblical response.**

This article was posted only to counter the flippant attitude of many who want to "divorce" their spouses on unscriptural grounds.

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**POST:** I really need some input here. If a Christian man (me) divorces his wife due to incompatibility and neglect (and various other mental anguish associated with a marriage that could not/would not be fixed even with MUCH prayer), and has a significant female other who is also a Christian and divorced due to abuse and mental cruelty, can they (we) marry each other after being truly forgiven by God for divorcing our spouses?

She and I are SO much in love and we want to serve the Lord together as husband and wife. We have read the Bible and seen prohibition of marriage of divorced people, but we know so many Christian couples who are both divorced and remarried and have good, solid marriages and serve the Lord well. Thanks for your help.

**RESPONSE:** Greetings in Jesus' name. You said you really need some input. As a person who has spent thousands of hours reading and studying the Bible, and one who pastored for over 6.5 years in the Pittsburgh area, the following is my input:

(1) To divorce over "incompatibility and neglect" is not a legitimate reason, according to the Word of God! Please note Matt. 5:32:

**"But I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, causes her to commit adultery, and anyone who marries a woman so divorced commits adultery."**

In his commentary, Adam Clarke wrote about this passage:

"It does not appear that there is any other case in which Jesus Christ admits of divorce."

Similarly, Scripture states: **"I tell you that anyone who divorces his wife, except for marital unfaithfulness, and marries another woman commits adultery" (Matt. 19:9).**

**"Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery, and the man who marries a divorced woman commits adultery" (Lk. 16:18).**

"Some Pharisees came and tested him by asking, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' 'What did Moses command you?' he replied. They said, 'Moses permitted a man to write a certificate of divorce and send her away.' 'It was because your hearts were hard that Moses wrote you this law,' Jesus replied. 'But at the beginning of creation God "made them male and female."

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one.

**Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.'** When they were in the house again, the disciples asked Jesus about this. He answered, **'Anyone who divorces his wife and marries another woman commits adultery against her. And if she divorces her husband and marries another man, she commits adultery' "**(Mk. 10:2-12).

## **5) Marriage and Divorce.. and exceptions**

The issue of marriage and divorce is hit head on in Jesus' confrontation with the Pharisees in Matthew 19:3-12. In an attempt to discredit Jesus before the crowds (v. 2), the Pharisees raised the issue of marriage and divorce. The purpose of the Pharisees question was to test Jesus (v. 3).

The first question raised was, “Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?” Two major interpretations on the subject of divorce prevailed among the Jews. The liberals taught that a man could divorce his wife for any reason. The conservatives taught that only one reason could be given for divorce and that was sexual unfaithfulness.

The Jews thought they had Jesus in a fix because no matter which interpretation He took someone would be upset and He would lose some credibility.

Rather than being stumped by their question, Jesus explained to the Pharisees that they did not understand the institution of marriage. As He explains in verses 4-6, if they understood the covenant relationship established by God between a man and a woman they would not ask the question. Their focus should be on the permanence of marriage, not on how to get out of it.

The only exception for divorce mentioned in Scripture is given in verse 9: “...except it be for fornication.” According to this passage, if a couple is not getting along and get divorced only to remarry, Jesus would classify this as adultery. Scripture is clear then, that whoever divorces except for immorality commits adultery.

**Source:** <http://www.eternalministries.org/q&a/marriage&divorce.html>

**Matthew 5: 27-32; 19: 3-10**

Jesus explains that the certificate of marriage was allowed by God” due to their hardheartedness. He ends this teaching with the words we hear in every wedding at this church: “*Those whom God has joined together, let no one put asunder.*”

Jesus gives a provision for divorce: unfaithfulness and abandonment.

He uses the word “pornea.” This word can be translated adultery, sexual immorality and abuse of a physical nature. In other words, no one is to tolerate abuse. The general principal that the Bible teaches is that God does not like divorce and it is not his will for our lives.

**Source:** <http://www.hillsideumc.org/sermons/sermon06232002.htm>

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## 6) **A word on ministers... Ministers Who Marry Anyone**

Ministers who "marry" two people that are not eligible for marriage, because of a past marriage, are helping to perpetuate this rampant problem with adultery. To teach contrary to the Scriptures on any issue, including divorce, can stumble others and bring judgment down on the teacher(s):

They are causing another to commit adultery through their teachings: " 'But you have turned from the way and **by your teaching have caused many to stumble**' " (Mal. 2:8).

**Source:** <http://www.evangelicaloutreach.org/divorce.htm>

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## 7) **The Myths of Divorce...**

- The Atlanta Center for Disease Control conducted a study of divorced persons and their families. The study revealed that the physical, relational, psychological, sociological and financial effects of divorce far outweigh the positive aspects of divorce on the spouse and the children involved.
- Divorce is a spiritual struggle. At times, divorce will seem attractive to you. But this is not God's will or desire for you. The challenge is to press on and grow the marriage. Again,
- the key word is persevere by God's grace.

**If you are married, persevere by God's grace and let the church assist you!**

Source: <http://www.hillsideumc.org/sermons/sermon06232002.htm>

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## 8) **How Serious is Divorce?**

Similar in affect to adultery, it affects both the sinner and others. Despite what some may say, it strongly affects any children that the marriage may have produced. (Look at the high teenage suicide rate, is it related to the high legal divorce rate, and even higher real divorce rate?)

It's after-effects, partly because of society's attitudes, last a long time, and may hinder future relationships.

If someone is considering legally divorcing their spouse, because apparently all other options have failed, I would ask them to consider the following:

- ✓ What most people do is not what God wants us to do.
- ✓ The simple way out may not be the Holy Way out.
- ✓ What is simple now, may carry pain for years or decades.
- ✓ God can resurrect the dead.
- ✓ Pray. Remember how Christ prayed when faced with the cross? When it was no longer off in the distant future, but was now ON THE NEXT DAY?

After telling others **He was having a tough time and admitting what He wanted, He said those powerful words:** *Luke 22:42b "...not My will, but Yours, be done."*

**Divorce, real and legal, is not to be taken lightly.**

Source: <http://www.achievebalance.com/divorce/divorce5.htm>

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## 9) **Christians divorcing?**

“FOR THOSE MARRIED TO BELIEVERS, THE LORD GIVES THIS COMMAND: It is a sin for them to end their commitment to their Christian spouse. They are not free to leave and marry another. Stay in the relationship you are in. Stop thinking that the grass is greener on the other side of the hill. If the wife is planning to leave, let her know that the two best options are to stay divorced, or come back to her husband. Husbands, always be committed to your wives.”

Source: <http://www.achievebalance.com/divorce/divorce8.htm>

## 10) **Some lies about divorce**

- **Lie #1: Divorce is the answer when you can't get along.** All couples disagree from time to time. In fact there are many today who, before getting married, fight about everything. They can agree about nothing, except that they want to be married to each other. This is very short-sighted, because it is often these same couples who cannot stand each other once they are married, because the issues they fought over before marrying were never resolved. Instead of the arguments ceasing, they intensify.

So what's the answer? Work it out. Don't divorce. No matter how badly two people disagree, they can still find some middle ground. Sometimes what's needed is for each to put his or her pride and selfishness aside and defer to the other. On very rare occasions, there may be irreconcilable differences, but quite often those that appear to be can be resolved. But you must share.

- **Lie #2 --Divorce is an option when two people don't love each other anymore.** This is not even a valid statement. How can two people truly love each other in the agaph sense of the word and ever stop? Most “love” between husbands and wives these days is too shallow, consisting of either *filew* in the best case or at worst *eroV*. The latter Greek word, from which we get our English word *erotic*, doesn't even appear in the Bible! If two do not love each other any longer, there was something wrong with their love in the first place.

Charity suffereth long, *and* is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth... (I Corinthians 13:4-8a)

- **Lie #3 --: If you realize that you married the wrong one, you should divorce.** Again, the overriding principle is that once two people have committed to each other, they should stay together and learn to get along, no matter how hard that is to do.



Marriage is two becoming one. Can one become the same two all over again? Never! The choice that was made may have been wrong, but it was the choice that was made. Perhaps the question ought to be “Am I the wrong one, and how can I become the right one for my spouse?” rather than “Oh, dear! Did I marry the wrong one?” And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made *them* at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder. (Matthew 19:4-6)

- **Lie #4 --You should divorce if your needs aren't being met.** Many people mistakenly think that getting married is something that will fulfill them. These people have the idea that they themselves have certain needs that it is the *other's* responsibility to meet. The problem with this understanding is its inherent selfishness: the very person who expects another to meet his needs often pays no attention to theirs, while at the same time he himself is expected by the other to meet her needs, or vice-versa.

In other words, this is a self-defeating attitude. From whence *come* wars and fightings among you? *come they* not hence, *even* of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume *it* upon your lusts. Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. (James 4:1-6)

**Source:** <http://www.angelfire.com/va2/divorce/>

11) **The Christian family in our country is falling down around us because the foundation for marriage is no longer stable.**

Consider these statistics from The Barna Research Group, Ltd., released on December 21, 1999 (see [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org) for more details):

- 27% of Born Again adults are currently or have previously been divorced; Compared to 24% of adults not Born Again.
- People who attend mainline Protestant churches, overall, experience divorce on par with the national average (25%).
- Being a Christian really doesn't seem to mean much when it comes to protecting the marriage and family anymore.

**Source:** <http://www.divorceproof.com/>

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## 12) **A bit of History**

During the 1970s, the divorce rate doubled (and the number of divorces tripled from 400,000 in 1962 to 1.2 million in 1981).(1)

The increase in the divorce rate came not from older couples but from the baby boom generation. One sociologist at Stanford University calculated that while men and women in their twenties comprised only about 20 percent of the population, they contributed 60 percent of the growth in the divorce rate in the 1960s and early 1970s.(2)

This increase was due to at least two major factors: attitude and opportunity. The baby boom generation's attitude toward such issues as fidelity, chastity, and commitment were strikingly different from their parents'.

Their parents would stay in a marriage in order to make it work. Baby boomers, however, were less committed to the ideal of marriage and quite willing to end what they felt was a bad marriage and move on with their lives.

While their parents might keep a marriage going "for the sake of the kids," the baby boom generation as a whole was much less concerned about such issues.

Economic opportunities also seem to be a significant factor in divorce. The rise in divorce closely parallels the increase in the number of women working. Women with a paycheck were less likely to stay in a marriage that wasn't fulfilling to them. Armed with a measure of economic power, many women had less incentive to stay in a marriage and work out their differences with their husbands.

A study of mature women done at Ohio State University found that the higher a woman's income in relation to the total income of her family, the more likely she was to seek a divorce.(3)

1. National Center for Health Statistics, "Advance Report of Final Divorce Statistics, 1983," *NCHS Monthly Vital Statistics Report*, vol. 34, no. 9, 26 December 1985, table 1.

2. Landon Jones, *Great Expectations: America and the Baby Boom Generation* (New York: Ballantine Books, 1980), 215.

3. Ibid., 216. **Source:** <http://www.probe.org/docs/divorce.html>

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## 13) **Am I Opposing God?**

**'..Hath God said?'**

Whenever man wants to do something forbidden, he begins to question whether God really 'meant' what He has said. The faithful Christian will review God's Word faithfully and answer the question of, 'hath God said' honestly (as the Bereans).

The unfaithful Christian will either ignore it, deny it, or look for avenues where he can rationalize it away, while making it appear that he is not really in disobedience. That is he

self deception manifest in the lack of reverential 'fear of God.' But the Lord is not mocked. That's the difference between guarding God's Word from loss (keeping it) and the unfaithfulness of the (so called) carnal Christian who will not 'receive' what God says.

### **1st John 2:4-5**

"He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: *hereby* know we that we are in him."

I am convinced and convicted by the Word that it is the Holy Spirit of truth that will both guide God's servants into what is true, and steer them away from what is not.

I would not be so deluded as to think that I am going to teach anyone anything in this study. The Holy Spirit *is* the teacher, and He teaches through God's Words, not mine. Therefore, if God doesn't say it, then you have no reason to have confidence that what follows is true. However, as the Bereans clearly understood, if these things are written in the Word of God, then they are not only true, but we are bound to faithfully keep the testimony of the Word.

**Source:** <http://members.aol.com/twarren13/divorce.html>

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## **14) Antinomianism**

What is it about Christians in the Bible Belt that makes them more vulnerable to divorce than those in the general population who do not seek to live their lives by biblical principles? Perrin's answer: antinomianism. (Dr. Rick Perrin, senior pastor of Cornerstone Church (PCA) in Columbia, S.C.)

This \$20 theological word simply means that once we are justified by faith in Christ, we no longer have an obligation to the moral law, because Christ freed us from that. We are not bound by the law, but rather led by the Holy Spirit, which God gives us as a guide.

This heresy holds that when the direction of the Spirit appears to conflict with God's law, this "Spirit-led guidance" trumps the law. Paul addressed this problem among the Corinthian Church (1 Corinthians 5-6).

"Not only do we believe that God's law does not bind us in any moral sense, we often discern God's direction by asking: 'Will it make me happy?' " Perrin said. "This is a discipleship of self-fulfillment rather than self-sacrifice, a pursuit of happiness rather than holiness. It is very individualistic, rampant in today's church and is the opposite of what Christ taught."

"A theology of marriage must be more than a sundry list of Scripture verses on the topic," Perrin said. "We must develop and draw from a comprehensive understanding of God's

creation of male and female, why and how 'the two become one flesh' and how this 'mystery,' as Paul calls it, is so significant as to represent Christ's relationship with His church.

If we do not live from this position, we are no different from the world around us, and maybe worse when it comes to divorce."

## 15) **Me first!**

Mohler observes the same thing. "Unfortunately, we have accommodated ourselves to the spirit of the age where the highest good is the fulfillment of the individual," he said.

"Most questions of moral decision-making revolve around the self without regard for the larger covenant community where believers are mutually accountable for their lives."

Compare these observations with Amy Grant's account of her divorce experience. While she recognized that God hates divorce, she also claimed He had exceptionally and personally released her from the relationship, even against the advice of her pastors. And how did she know this?

**She just felt it**-and besides, her counselor had told her that God made marriage to serve her own happiness and fulfillment.

And by the irresistible logic of a consumer society, if it's not meeting your desires, you get rid of it and find another one that will. Satisfaction guaranteed, right?

Perrin's observations echo those of author and sociologist Robert Bellah in his 1985 bestseller *Habits of the Heart*. As he examined American evangelical commitment and individualism in the 1980s, Bellah found "a visible tendency in many evangelical circles to thin the biblical language of sin and redemption to an idea of Jesus as the friend who helps us find happiness and self-fulfillment."

Grant knew this was God's will because, as she explained, she felt a peace, **"a very settled, unshakable feeling"** about the decision. In addition, her counselor told her "God did not make man for marriage," but rather, her marriage was a servant to her own happiness and fulfillment.

**Source:** <http://www.family.org/cforum/citizenmag/coverstory/a0011624.cfm>

## 16) **The highest relationship on earth**

But what our Lord makes clear is that this relationship is the highest relationship possible in life. Notice that it takes priority over all others. Closer even than the ties of blood is that of marriage, in the mind and heart of God. "A man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife." It is a closer relationship than that to any children who follow. People are to become husbands and wives before they become fathers and mothers.

This indicates a priority of relationship. A man is closer to his wife, and a wife to her husband, than they will ever be to their children. Though we may not feel that way, nevertheless it is the truth. That is the way it would ultimately work out best. And, of course, this prior relationship of husband and wife is before friendships, and all other possible relationships with others. It is the goal he had in mind when God made man and woman in the beginning. **Source:** What About Divorce? By Ray Stedman:  
<http://www.pbc.org/dp/stedman/mark/3318.html>

## 17) Kids and Divorce

In 1961, there were just 27,000 divorces. In 2001, there were 160,000. Today divorce affects almost 150,000 children every year, more than two thirds of whom are under the age of ten.

We believe that in family disputes the courts should be the last, not the first, resort for parents who separate. Mediation should as far as possible always be the first step.

**Source:** [http://ccfwebsite.com/news\\_display.php?ID=148&type=news](http://ccfwebsite.com/news_display.php?ID=148&type=news)

## 18) How does divorce affect the parent / child relationship?

- a. "When parents divorce, most children suffer. For some, this suffering turns into long-lasting psychological damage. Neglect of children, which can be psychologically more damaging than physical abuse, is twice as high among separated and divorced parents."

*Yuriko Egami, "Psychiatric Profile and Sociodemographic Characteristics of Adults Who Report Physically Abusing or Neglecting Children," American Journal of Psychiatry, Vol. 153 (1996), pp. 921-928.*

- b. "The National Surveys of Children, a major longitudinal federal study done in three waves during the 1980s, found that divorce was associated with a higher incidence of several mental health problems in children: depression; withdrawal from friends and family; aggressive, impulsive, or hyperactive behavior; and either withdrawing from participation in the classroom or becoming disruptive."

*Popenoe, Life Without Father, p. 62, reporting on the work of Wells, Rankin, Demo, and Acock.*

- c. "Researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the University of Chicago found that the adult children of divorced parents experience mental health problems significantly more often than do the adult children of intact families."

*Andrew J. Cherlin, P. Lindsay Chase-Lansdale, and Christine McRae, "Effects of Parental Divorce on Mental Health Throughout the Life Course," American Sociological Review, Vol. 63 (April 1998), pp. 245-246.*

- d. **"...one longitudinal study tracked children whose parents divorced in 1946 and tested them two and three decades later. Even 30 years after the divorce, negative long-term effects were clearly present in the income, health, and behavior of many of the grown offspring."** *Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, To Have and to Hold, p. 35.*
- e. **"The rate of sexual abuse of girls by their stepfathers is at least six or seven times higher, (1) and may be as much as 40 times greater, (2) than sexual abuse of daughters by their biological fathers who remain in intact families."**

- (1) Diana E. H. Russell, "The Prevalence and Seriousness of Incestuous Abuse: Stepfathers vs. Biological Fathers," *Child Abuse and Neglect*, Vol. 8 (1984), pp. 15-22. (2) Margo Wilson and Martin Daly, "The Risk of Maltreatment of Children Living with Stepparents," in Richard J. Gelles and Jane B. Lancaster, eds., *Child Abuse and Neglect: Biosocial Dimensions*, (2) *Foundations of Human Behavior* (New York: Aldine de Gruyter, 1987), p. 228.

**Source:** [http://www.preventingdivorce.com/divorce\\_child.htm](http://www.preventingdivorce.com/divorce_child.htm)

**19) What impact could divorce have on my child's chances of enjoying a healthy, productive life?**

**"A major national survey of 20,000 adolescents found that the adolescent children of divorced parents did worse than their peers from intact families on such measures of satisfaction with life as happiness, sense of personal control, trust, and friendship."** Alan C. Acock and K. Hill Kiecolt, "Is It Family Structure or Socioeconomic Status? Family Structure During Adolescence and Adult Adjustment," *Social Forces*, Vol. 68 (1989), pp. 553-571. *This held true even after taking the effects of reduced income into account.*

**"In the "Impact of Divorce Project," a survey of 699 elementary students nationwide conducted by Kent State University in Ohio, children from divorced homes performed more poorly in reading, spelling, and math and repeated a grade more frequently than did children from intact two-parent families."** Popenoe, *Life Without Father*, p. 57.

**"The divorce of parents also reduces the likelihood that a child will attain a college education. The college attendance rate is about 60 percent lower among children of divorced parents compared with children of intact families."** Hillevi M. Aro and Ulla K. Palosaari, "Parental Divorce, Adolescence, and Transition to Young Adulthood: A Follow-Up Study," *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, Vol. 62, No. 3 (July 1992), pp. 421-429.

**Source:** <http://www.preventingdivorce.com/effects%20of%20divorce%20on%20child.htm>

## 20) **Divorce and Children**

This subject would not be exhausted unless we said a word about the only really innocent parties in any case of separation - the children.

No matter what the basis of divorce or separation may be, the child that lives in a divided home, without one of his parents, always lives under an emotional strain that ordinary children do not have to bear and it will leave its mark upon his life. It destroys the bright and eager faith of the child, makes him feel as though he has been rejected, and torments him for years.

The undisputed teaching of the Word of God on the subject of separation and remarriage is this: First, separation is permissible but only on the ground of infidelity. Even then it is not encouraged. Second, remarriage is prohibited throughout the entire New Testament. This is the teaching of Jesus and the Apostle Paul.

**Source:** <http://www.bible-truths.org/sermons/thechristiananddivorce.htm>

## 21) **How long does divorce affect children?**

A new study reveals a surprising answer to that question. Dr. Judith Wallerstein is an expert on divorce, and has followed the lives of more than 90 people over 25 years. Her latest study, published in a book called [The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce](#), has found that the effects of divorce are cumulative and become more pronounced in adulthood. The individuals Wallerstein studied are now in their 20's and 30's. She says the children of divorce still fight to overcome expectations of failure, fear of loss, and fear of change.

**Source:** <http://www.preventingdivorce.com/child%20of%20divorce.htm>

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## 22) **Adult Children of Divorce**

Finally, a Book for Adult Children of Divorce— [Generation EX: Adult Children of Divorce and the Healing of Our Pain](#) by [Jen Abbas](#): Written by an Adult Child of Divorce.

One of the hardest truths about divorce is that every split—no matter when it occurs—will have lifelong effects on the children caught in the crossfire. While most people acknowledge our pain during our parents' parting, few of us realize that our most significant insecurities, questions, and doubts may not show up for years, when we seek our own intimate relationships as adults.

In fact, millions of adult children of divorce feel lost, displaced, or unwanted years after the ink has dried on their parents' divorce decree. Like them, you may fear abandonment, betrayal, or failure in your own marriage. Despite outward successes, you may doubt your emotional abilities. You may notice that your parents' divorce affects you more each year, not less. You are not alone.

**Source:** <http://www.christianbookpreviews.com/christian-book-detail.php?isbn=1578566886>

(23) **This may be the biggest decision of your life. One that will affect you for years to come.**

Don't let the emotional intensity of a marriage crisis drive your decision. Before deciding whether to divorce or stay together, you need information—LOTS of information.

*Before You Divorce* will help you step back from the emotional turmoil you now face to take an objective view of how divorce

(if you select that path) will affect your life in several different areas:

**Emotional**

**Physical**

**Financial**

**Legal**

**Children and family**

**Spiritual**

23) **Are you considering divorce?**  
**Is your spouse?**

It is essential that you have this information before making your decision.

**Order now / call today at 800-489-7778.**

**Source:**

<http://www.beforeyoudivorce.org/BYD/index.html>

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## ***A final thought***

**Ps 106:15** – “And he gave them their request; but sent **leanness** {wasting (of disease) or scantness (of measure)} into their soul.”

**Why did this occur?**

**Because Ps. 106: 13** “They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel”

**In context** The Israelites ..” despised the manna, calling it light or innutritive food. God gave them flesh as they desired, but no blessing



accompanied it; and, in consequence, they did not fatten, but grew lean upon it; and many, surfeited by excess, died of disease

Compare" "leanness," with "nausea or loathing"  
(Treasury of Scripture Knowledge)

"Those that will not wait for God's counsel, shall justly be given up to their own hearts' lusts, to walk in their own counsels. God showed his displeasure for this.

He filled them with uneasiness of mind, terror of conscience, and self-reproach.

Many that fare deliciously every day, and whose bodies are healthful, have leanness in their souls: no love to God, no thankfulness, no appetite for the Bread of life, and then the soul must be lean.

Those wretchedly forget themselves, that feast their bodies and starve their souls.

Even the true believer will see abundant cause to say, It is of the Lord's mercies that I am not consumed.

Often have we set up **idols in our hearts,..**"  
(Matthew Henry)

**Also see: [Jeremiah 2:13:](#)** "For My people have committed two evils: They have forsaken Me, The fountain of living waters, To hew for themselves cisterns, Broken cisterns That can hold no water."

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